

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN STATE POLICE



October 4, 1999

Dear Community Leader:

We are pleased to forward the attached Statewide School Safety Information Policy. School safety is a priority in every local community and with each of our offices. Events around the country during the past few years have raised the level of public attention to the issues surrounding school safety. In Michigan, thanks to your work and that of so many others, we are talking about **maintaining** and **improving** safe schools, and that is something of which we all should be proud.

On July 6, 1999, Governor John Engler signed into law 1999 PA 102. This legislation adds section 1308 to the Revised School Code and directs the three of us to adopt, publish, and distribute to school boards, county prosecutors, and local law enforcement agencies a Statewide School Safety Information Policy no later than 90 days after the law is signed. A copy of 1999 PA 102 is enclosed.

We believe that section 1308 calls for a coordinated approach to the sharing of school safety information regarding violent and potentially violent students and situations. Our offices have developed a state policy that clearly delineates an effective way for school districts, police departments, and other agencies to share this vital information.

In developing this policy, we reached out to associations representing schools, law enforcement, prosecutors, and the people who make these three entities work. The feedback was beneficial, and this Statewide School Safety Information Policy is better as a result.

The next step is for each local community to meet and confer on the implementation of the Statewide School Safety Information Policy. We strongly recommend that each school superintendent initiate this meeting. If another approach is better for your community, however, by all means pursue that course. The important thing is that your community meets and confers on implementation as soon as possible.

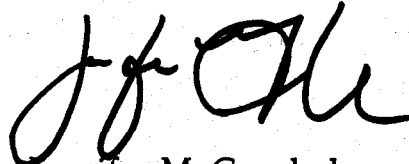
School Safety Information Policy
October 4, 1999
Page two

We are grateful for the level of support the Statewide School Safety Information Policy has received during its development. Our offices are available to assist you. We hope that the Statewide School Safety Information Policy is helpful as you develop your local school safety information policies and in your efforts to maintain and improve school safety.

Sincerely yours,



Arthur E. Ellis
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Education



Jennifer M. Granholm
Attorney General



Col. Michael D. Robinson, Director
Michigan State Police